

APPROVED JANUARY 12, 2010

At 7:05 Co-Chairman Andy Kohlhofer called the meeting to order. Chairman Charles Kimball came into the meeting at 7:10 PM. Budget Committee members present were Charles Kimball, Andy Kohlhofer, Michael Nygren, Sue, D'Eon, Peg Pinkham, Laurie Allore, Selectmen Greta St. Germain and Recording Secretary Jeanne Nygren. Other members present were Superintendent Bill Lander, School Board Member Ida Keane.

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2009 meeting was made by St. Germain. This was seconded by Kimball. The vote was 6-1. D'Eon abstained.

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 30, 2009 meeting was made by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by D.Eon. The vote was 5-2. Allore and Pinkham abstained.

Superintendent Lander told the Committee that Bonnie Sandstrom has found a problem with retirement figures that are in the School budget book today. He will share this with the School Board and their next meeting and come back to the Budget Committee with these updates. This difference is about \$15,000 or 1/2 percent higher in calculations in the budget book.

The Budget Committee then continued going through School Budget function General Education.

A motion was made by St Germain on Textbooks/Curriculum Material 5640-10 to recommend the \$4,921.00 decrease which keeps this line at \$14,279.00. This was seconded by Kohlhofer. The vote was unanimous 7-0.

A motion was made by Kohlhofer to reduce Reference Books line 5641-10 by \$100.00 to \$1,200.00. This motion was based on historical expenditures. This was seconded by St. Germain. The vote was 6-1. Pinkham voted nay.

Kohlhofer remarked to Superintendent Lander that he has yet to hear anything positive about the new Every Day Math. Allore said she also agreed. He will take this into consideration and will look into the assessment and how the students are progressing. Pinkham said there are workshops being conducted for the parents and they are working towards getting them televised.

Pinkham said a lot of parents and teachers embrace this math. Lander said he saw growth in the school as the students grew in his past school system where he was superintendent. Kohlhofer said California, Texas, and Wisconsin are not embracing this math and the Department of Education was asked not to adopt this type of math in teaching due to the difficulties of students in the high school and their transition. Pinkham said there are a lot of states that like it. Lander said in his job he will make adjustments if necessary for the best of the students.

At 7:30 PM School Board member Sharon Girardi came into the meeting.

A motion was made by D'Eon in line 5644-10 Workbooks/Curriculum Material to accept the amount of \$22,519. This was seconded by Pinkham. The vote was unanimous 7-0. All were in favor 7-0.

A motion to approve line 5645-10 Periodicals at a reduction as proposed by the School of \$500 to \$1000 was made by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by D'Eon. The vote was unanimous 7-0.

Nygren said in 2008-2009 the line 5650-10 Computer Software was reduced to \$6400.00 from \$11,100 and this money was moved into another line. In this year's budget this line is going back to \$10,100.00. He stated that what is actually spent and what comes before the Town are different figures and he wants other members to know this was not what was presented in the original budget. Lander wasn't here at that time and he will keep track. Pinkham said after District Meeting the Board has to make the adjustment to what the budget was cut to what it actually is and this doesn't project what was voted and then the Board has to readjust their budget to the reflect these figures.

Pinkham said they are not spending money in their budget that they don't need and that the School Board members are also taxpayers in this Town.

A motion was made by Kohlhofer on line 5650-10 Computer Software to reduce by \$3000 to \$7,100. This reduction is based on the history of spending. This was seconded by St. Germain. The vote was 5-2. D'Eon and Pinkham voted nay.

A motion was made by St. Germain on line 5731-10 New Instruction Equipment to keep this line at \$1.00. This was seconded by Kohlhofer. The vote was unanimous at 7-0.

A motion was made by Pinkham on line 5733-10 New Furniture to keep this line at \$1.00. This was seconded by D'Eon. The vote was unanimous 7-0.

A motion was made by Kohlhofer on line 5734-10 New Computer Equipment to reduce this line by \$1.00 to \$0.00. This was seconded by St. Germain. The reason in this reduction by Kohlhofer was there are other lines to purchase computer equipment under. The vote was 5-2. D'Eon and Pinkham voted nay.

Pinkham asked Lander to get a printout from the Financial Administrator Bonnie Sandstrom on what needed to be moved from these lines for expenditures and she said that some were frozen to meet other obligation needs. When you don't spend on instructional equipment and skip a year but they sometimes need to spend more money then if they spent yearly.

A motion was made by Kohlhofer to approve line 5735-10 Replace Instruct Equipment at the School recommendation of \$1714. This was seconded by Pinkham. The vote was unanimous 7-0.

Superintendent Lander left the meeting at 8:00 PM and was thanked by the Budget Committee. He said he will meet with anyone at anytime if needed and anyone who wants to take a tour of the school is welcome.

A motion was made by Pinkham on line 5737-10 Replace Furniture to leave \$1.00 in this line. This was seconded by D'Eon. The vote was 6-1. Nygren voted nay.

A motion was made by Kohlhofer on reconsideration on line 5733-10 New Furniture to reduce this line to \$0.00. Kimball made the motion to reconsider this line. This was seconded by St. Germain. The vote was 6-1. Pinkham voted nay.

A motion was made by Kohlhofer on line 5738-10 Replace Computer Equipment to reduce this line by \$1.00 to \$0.00. This was seconded by Nygren. The vote was 5-2. D'Eon and Pinkham voted nay.

A motion was made by Nygren to accept line 5810-10 Professional Dues at the School's recommendation of \$717.00. This was seconded by D'Eon. The vote was 6-1. St. Germain voted nay.

A motion was made by Nygren to table voting on the bottom line figure for 1100 Regular Education until calculations were tabulated. This was seconded by Kohlhofer. The vote was unanimous 7-0.

St. Germain asked why so many have been labeled Special Education students at Ellis School as concerned residents have contacted her regarding this question. Allore said she also is concerned on these identifications and what are the guidelines. Pinkham said you will hear this and need to look at the State's figures. Pinkham said there are so many different types of needs that are categorized in this area, emotional, developmental issues, etc. Pinkham said percentage is not high in comparison to the State statistics. She will get the statistical figures if this would be helpful for the Committee.

Allore's question asked how long they are kept as an IEP student when they just have a little bit of reading comprehension delay. Pinkham said they have to be revisited twice a year to see if you still need that developmental needs and she feels that Fremont is not overidentifying. She will get these for the Committee next week. Maybe having Principal Dawn Lewis come in to go through the process might be helpful before we address the Special Education section of the budget. Pinkham also said that Special Education continues by law through to age 21.

Kohlhofer said he feels this is a real issue and sometimes basically they are referred due to lack of parenting and they want the child diagnosed with ADD. Kohlhofer said while looking at last year Speech and Language numbers they are above the average. In specific learning disability we are down 30% to the State 40% figure. Kohlhofer said this is a State law and we can't get around this and that the Federal Government has refused to pay their share. The most they pay is 17% when they are supposed to pay 50% and he feels this doesn't serve the students well and it cuts into Regular Education.

Allore asked what the team is comprised of who does the IEP identifications. Pinkham said parents, teachers, doctors, outside testing, psychology teacher to identify the needs and she believes they are testing properly and adequately.

1200 SPECIAL EDUCATION

A question about the literacy coach and the reading specialist and what is the difference and what is actually done by them was asked by Kohlhofer. Kimball also had a question on Tuition NH public High School and the figure presented in the book.

Pinkham said this is based on actual numbers of students at this time. Allore asked on the aide salary and how many there are. There are 19 listed but Ida Keane said there are actually 20 now. St. Germain asked if the para educations are for special needs students only. Yes was the answer.

A discussion on line 5112-11 Preschool teacher's salaries and Kohlhofer doesn't agree with the town providing preschool. Nygren asked why this isn't paid out of grant money. Pinkham said they are not all funded for this specific position. When they have grant money, they fund the positions that they can. Kohlhofer said under Section 28-A of the law states that any State mandated has to be fully funded by the State. Section C Special Education law that we adopted in 1993, said the State has never funded preschool and State law doesn't require preschool. The State law only covers K-12 and says nothing about preschool. This is an interpretation Kohlhofer feels by the school on Special Education Section C as adopted by the legislature. Pinkham stated that other school systems may not have it, but by law they have to identify this need even if they are bused to other schools.

A motion was made by Kohlhofer in line 5112-11 Preschool Teacher salaries to reduce this line from \$41,419.00 to \$1.00. There was no second to this motion. The motion was withdrawn by Kohlhofer.

Allore would like to read this law. Pinkham said we have to provide services to children who are identified at age 3 and on. Our preschool is partially funded by private dollars, \$16,000 Pinkham said. This is more cost effective to provide these services in Town than to send them elsewhere and pay more to educate them.

Allore asked what the guidelines are when they are preschoolers. Keane said they have the Child Find Program and they bring the children in and screen them with tests.

Kohlhofer pointed out that the Federal Government is supposed to provide 40% of the annual average tuition and they are giving only \$3,000 and that is not 40% and asked why we should have to pick up the rest of the cost.

D'Eon left the meeting at 9:00 PM.

The Budget Committee then began to go through the Town warrants. Carlson passed out the near final documents for the Budget Committee for their meeting next Tuesday, January 12 at 7:00 PM. There will be additional warrants they need to address before the Public Hearing that starts at 7:30 PM. A motion to change the Budget Committee starting time to 6:30 PM rather than 7:00 PM due to these changes that need to be voted on January 12 was made by Kohlhofer. This was seconded by Allore. The vote was unanimous 6-0.

The MS 7 is required in the Town Report and Carlson will have these documents at the Public Hearing in a format that will be easier for the public to read on the Warrants.

One major item to point out has to do with the funding Capital Reserve Fund from unreserved fund balance. This does not create a tax impact. Carlson said there is a new procedure where there has to be a tally votes done on the warrants even on non money items. This is quoted in RSA 32-A:5. There is an additional warrant on the definition of marriage which is petition Article 22.

The Budget Committee then went through the Warrant Articles that they need to make their recommendations on. Articles 7, 8 and 9 that are fully funded by unreserved fund balances.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twelve thousand five hundred dollars (\$12,500) to be placed in the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund. This sum to come from fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 8-0. (Majority vote required).

A motion was made by Pinkham to recommend this Article as written. This was seconded by Nygren. The vote was unanimous 6-0.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be placed in the Town Hall Renovations Capital Reserve Fund. This sum to come from fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 7-1. (Majority vote required.)

A motion was made by Pinkham to recommend this Article as written. This was seconded by Nygren. The vote was unanimous 6-0.

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be placed in the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund. This sum comes from fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 8-0. (Majority vote required.)

A motion was made by Pinkham to recommend this Article as written. This was seconded by Nygren. The vote was unanimous 6-0.

Article 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of (\$50,000) to be placed in the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund, with \$25,000 of this sum to come from fund balance and \$25,000 to be praised from taxation. The Selectmen recommended this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 8-0. (Majority vote required.)

A motion was made by Pinkham to recommend this Article as written. This was seconded by Nygren. The vote was unanimous 6-0.

Carlson suggested to the Budget Committee to briefly discuss each header and what it entails and that the Town's budget is down in every place. Carlson hopes all her departments will be present at the Public Hearing on Tuesday.

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Pinkham. This was seconded by Nygren. The vote was unanimous 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

The Budget Committee next meeting will be January 12, 2009 at 6:30 PM. The Public Hearing is January 12, 2009 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Nygren
Recording Secretary